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ETA® INTERNATIONAL

PRESS RELEASE

ETA develops new certification to serve the communications industry

Whether its repairing 2-way radios, performing complete communications installations, or servicing and maintaining a 911 emergency system, the new ETA International ® General Communications Technician certification validates knowledge and skills.

Greencastle, March 4, 2014: The General Communications Technician (GCT) Level 1 certification is a stand-alone program modeled after general industry communication systems basics and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) guidelines. It covers the technical disciplines in the COMT program that entry-level communications technicians needs as a regular part of their job. It also goes into more in-depth specifics, beyond what the COMT covers.

Whether for a commercial radio shop, internal telecommunications support for a utility or other large company, or for a government agency, the GCT-1 provides basic knowledge in all the areas a new radio communications technician and/or engineer will encounter in the public safety communications or business/commercial radio field. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts average annual wages of $52,500 in this industry.

"The GCT program takes into account every aspect of the technical side of the LMR (land mobile radio) and wireless industries, said ETA Chairman Ira Wiesenfeld, PE, CETsr. "Additionally, the GCT program is designed from the beginning to require re-certification every four years to confirm that the holder of the certification is keeping abreast of the technology as it moves forward".

GCT study guides will be soon available and updated on a regular basis along with the corresponding certification tests that reflect changes in the technology. In addition, the ETA website and Subject Matter Experts will provide a resource to industry and governmental agencies to insure that any problems that arise in the field can be resolved by competent installers, technicians and designers/engineers.

"ETA intends to lead the industry in providing the necessary certifications to insure that there are competent installers and technicians certified and available for working on public safety systems, utilities, or for a government agency," said ETA President Teresa Maher, CSS.

The GCT Level 2 and Level 3 journeyman certifications covers more specific in-depth descriptions of communications theories, which involve more complex skills and troubleshooting and delve into much more complex mathematical skills. Since the COMT prepares emergency responders on practices and procedures common to radio communication technicians during all-hazards emergency operations, the GCT levels 2 and 3 do the same. These two levels also dig deeper into more complicated mathematics and even goes beyond what the COMT covers. Communications technicians working within the Incident Command System (ICS) organizational structure and other disaster preparations must obtain further instruction through COML or other means. http://www.dhs.gov/communications-technician-training

Widely known for electronics certification programs, ETA helps electronics technicians increase their knowledge and skills to excel in their fields, while connecting employers to qualified electronics professionals. Learn how ETA certifies today's technicians in tomorrow's technologies and take advantage of the FREE Career Resource Center by visiting the ETA website at
http://eta-i.org/career_resource_center.html

Download this press release at –

www.eta-i.org/pr/ETA_develops_new_certification_to_serve_the_communications_industry.pdf

ETA® International - Founded in 1978, Electronics Technicians Association International is a not-for-profit, professional association promoting excellence in electronics technologies through certifications. The association's initiatives are to provide a prominent certification program of competency criteria and testing benchmarks that steer international electronic standards and renowned professional electronics credentials. Today, ETA has issued over 115,000 technical certifications covering more than 70 certification programs in a variety of electronics fields. The association consists of over 5,000 members, 625 Subject Matter Experts (SME's) serving on various Industry Advisory Committees and 1,010 Exam/Certification Administrators (CA's). All ETA certifications are accredited through the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) and align with the ISO-17024 standard. (www.eta-i.org)

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